



WILKES UNIVERSITY'S 79TH ANNUAL

Spring Commencement

FOR THE CONFERRING OF BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Saturday, May Sixteenth

Two-thousand and twenty-six • 3 p.m.

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

*O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars,
Through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched,
Were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare,
The bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there.
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
And the home of the brave?*

*Words by Francis Scott Key
Arranged by John Philip Sousa
Harmonized by Walter Damrosch*

ALMA MATER

*Wilkes, our Alma Mater,
We pledge our hearts to thee,
Honor, faith, and courage,
Truth and loyalty,
In our work and in our pleasure,
Guide us as a friend;
We shall always love thee,
Loyal to the end.
Thou shalt lead us onward
In search of finer things.
May we find the wisdom
That thy spirit brings.
May our deeds of love and service
Ever swell thy fame —
Wilkes, we stand to greet thee!
Glory to thy name.*

Words and Music by Eleanor C. Farley



WILKES UNIVERSITY'S SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL

Spring Commencement

DISCLAIMER: The inclusion of a student's name in this program does not indicate that the student has successfully completed their degree requirements and graduated.

Order of Exercises

PROCESSIONAL
March No. 4, Op. 39.....*Edward Elgar*
Arranged by Joel M. Graham
(The audience is requested to rise as the procession begins.)
The Wilkes University Commencement Band

WELCOMEDAVID M. WARD
Senior Vice President and Provost

INVOCATIONFR. BROGAN C. RYAN, C.S.C.
Director of Campus Ministry
College Chaplain, King’s College

The Star-Spangled Banner.....*Words by Francis Scott Key*
Arranged by Joel M. Graham
(The words to The Star-Spangled Banner are printed on the inside front cover of the program.)
The audience is requested to stand and sing the National Anthem with the chorus and band.)
The Wilkes University Commencement Band and Chorus

GREETINGSWILLIAM R. MILLER ’81
Chair, Board of Trustees

BEN TOLL
Chair, Faculty Affairs Council
Associate Professor, Political Science

SAMARA CAREY
Member of the Class of 2026

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS.....ROBERT A. MUGFORD, P.E. ’58
LAWRENCE MICHAEL NEWMAN

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS.....LAWRENCE MICHAEL NEWMAN

Order of Exercises

THE CONFERRING OF THE DEGREES.....GREG CANT
President

ALUMNI INDUCTION..... NEAL McHUGH '86
Second Vice President, Alumni Association

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE.....GREG CANT

Alma Mater..... *Eleanor C. Farley*
Arranged by Joel M. Graham and Richard Chapline
(The words to the Alma Mater are printed on the inside front cover of the program.
The audience is requested to stand and join in the singing.)
The Wilkes University Commencement Band and Chorus

BENEDICTION..... FR. BROGAN C. RYAN, C.S.C.

Let Music Be Our Memorial..... *J.A.C. Redford*
The Wilkes University Commencement Chorus

RECESSIONAL
Folk Songs from Somerset..... *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
Arranged by Ed Huckleby
(The audience is requested to rise as the recessional begins.)
The Wilkes University Commencement Band

Music Provided By:
Wilkes University Commencement Band
Joel M. Graham, Conductor
Wilkes University Commencement Chorus
Joshua Harper, Conductor

Ceremony Interpreted By:
Interpretek

Awards

THE MABLE SCOTT WANDELL AND STERLING LEROY
WANDELL AWARDS..... SYDNEY AHRBERG '26
KAYLA JESSICA ECKROTE '26
KAYLEE KATHERINE FENNER '26
CHRISTOPHER KOPIAK '26
AMELIA MAY LAWRENCE '26

*This award is presented to the graduates who have attained the highest academic average
for the four years at Wilkes University.*

Presentation by DAVID M. WARD
Senior Vice President and Provost

THERESA JORDAN AND
FRANK MEHM PRIZE..... ADRIANNA AZIZ '26

*This annual prize recognizes an individual from the Wilkes community who, by vote of a select committee,
exemplifies moral courage, perseverance, formidable faith and a sense of unwavering optimism.*

Presentation by MARK ALLEN
Associate Vice President for Student Life and Success

ALUMNI AWARD FOR LEADERSHIPSAMARA CAREY '26

*This award is given by the Wilkes University Alumni Association to the member
of the graduating class considered to have made the strongest contributions to
student life and the student activities program of the University.*

Presentation by NEAL McHUGH '86
Second Vice President, Alumni Association

ARMED FORCES RESERVE OFFICER APPOINTMENT
UNITED STATES SPACE FORCEGABRIELLE TETREAULT '26

Presentation by JONATHAN HOGAN
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force

Commencement Address and Honorary Degree Recipient

LARRY NEWMAN

Larry Newman is the founding executive director of the Diamond City Partnership, Wilkes-Barre's nonprofit downtown management organization. In 2007, he directed the creation of the Downtown Wilkes-Barre Business Improvement District, a DCP-managed special district serving downtown's commercial core.

Newman previously served as the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber's vice president of community and economic development. He has also worked in city government and private practice.

His local planning and community development work, encompassing downtown revitalization, historic preservation (such as the Stegmaier Federal Building), public space improvements (such as Wilkes-Barre's River Common and Public Square Bandshell) and urban mixed-use infill (such as Movies 14), has received national recognition.

Newman co-authored the book *Buildings of Pennsylvania: Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania*, published by the University of Virginia Press in 2010 as part of the Society of Architectural Historians' Buildings of the United States series.

Newman is a board member and past chair of the Pennsylvania Downtown Center and the vice chair of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania. He currently chairs the Wilkes-Barre City Planning Commission and the Wilkes-Barre Industrial Development Authority and serves as a board member of several other nonprofit organizations. Previous positions include chair of the Luzerne County Zoning Hearing Board, president of the Luzerne County Historical Society and a board member of Preservation Pennsylvania. Newman was a member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's peer grant review panel, and a juror for the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects' John Stewardson Memorial Competition.

He has been recognized with Leadership Northeast's Award for Outstanding Community Leadership, the North Branch Land Trust's Stewardship Award and the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Institute of Architects Government Award.

A graduate of Wyoming Valley West High School, Newman received his bachelor's degree in architecture, *cum laude*, from Princeton University and his master's degree in architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

Commencement Address and Honorary Degree Recipient

ROBERT A. MUGFORD '58

Bob Mugford started as a sales engineer at Power Engineering in 1965, purchasing the company and becoming board chair in 1979.

A first-generation college student, he earned his associate's degree in engineering from Wilkes College in 1958 and went on to receive his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1961. He earned his professional engineering license in 1967.

Through the leadership of the Mugfords, Power Engineering Corporation has helped transform the Wilkes campus for more than four decades.

PEC has served as a valued partner on construction and renovations to the Henry Student Center, Chase Hall, the Stark Learning Center, Breiseth Hall, the Cohen Science Center, the Munson Field House, the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for Performing Arts and the Karambelas Media and Communication Center.

Mugford's daughter, Jennifer Mugford Necessary, PharmD '00, is also an alumna, graduating with the first class to earn doctor of pharmacy degrees from Wilkes University's Nesbitt School of Pharmacy.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE CANDIDATES

The Dr. Bing K. Wong College of Arts & Sciences

Paul T. Riggs, *Dean*

BIOLOGY

Abigail Blockus	Aidan Hannon
²⁹ Autumn Bullek	Emily Hedglin
³ Bisma Chaudhry, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Rebecca Lynn Lubinski
Gabrielle Ciborosky, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Savanna Mykenzie Maxon
Hannah Dittus <i>Second Degree, Secondary Education</i>	^{3,29,31} Zoë Jane Morley, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Christopher Dugard	Molly Lynn Nastacie
³ Kayla Jessica Eckrote, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Degree, Medical Laboratory Science</i>	Mayerly Yissel Perez Vergara
Caleb A. Edwards, <i>Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Degree, Environmental Science</i>	^{3,29} Madison M. Robel, <i>Cum Laude</i>
³ Nadia Evanosky, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	³ Megan Robinson, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
	^{3,21,29} Chase James Rudisill, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Degree, Neuroscience</i> <i>Second Major, Psychology</i>

BIOCHEMISTRY

Any Marquela Barrios Gómez	Maria Belen Gonzalez Reyes <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Sara Esther Delgado	²⁹ Jake Christopher Middleton, <i>Cum Laude</i>
Robert Denman, <i>Cum Laude</i>	^{29,31} Melissa Chian Ooi
Joshua Anthony Dombrowski, <i>Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Degree, Medical Laboratory Science</i>	Matthew Ward
	Bethany Marie Yashkus, <i>Cum Laude</i>

CHEMISTRY

³¹ Simon Farrell	Ainsley Wescott
²¹ Saurabh Mukeshkumar Patel <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Degree, Neuroscience</i>	

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Jose Carrasco	Cherry Mercedes
Alex Costello, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Joseph Ryan
Charles Gordon	Charles Shoppel III <i>Second Major, Cloud Computing</i>

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

¹² Samara Carey, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Charles William Searle
^{12,23,30} Michell Marlen Jaramillo Castillo	Ava Tureen
^{12,23} Gabriel D. Josefowicz, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Major, English</i>	

BACHELOR’S DEGREE CANDIDATES
The Dr. Bing K. Wong College of Arts & Sciences
(Continued)

CRIMINOLOGY

² Michael Andrzejewski, Jr. <i>Second Major, Sociology</i>	Wilfred S. Jimenez <i>Second Major, Sociology</i>
Caleb Burkhart	Alexis Kazmierski <i>Second Major, Political Science</i>
Mia DePasquale	
^{2,21,31} Skylar Forella, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Major, Psychology</i>	² Abigail Kay LeGars <i>Second Major, Sociology</i>
Ben Walter Grater <i>Second Major, Sociology</i>	Tallen Murray
Cora Emily James <i>Second Major, Sociology</i>	² Rylee Campbell Walsh, <i>Cum Laude</i>

DIGITAL DESIGN AND MEDIA ART

Mason Patrick Bagusky	Lacey Ann Rinker, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Grace Carrick, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Katerin Rodriguez Ayarza
Kyle Castle	Emily Marie Romanoskey
Joshua Nathan Ermeus	Gabriele Ruggiero, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Caleb Mitchell Gibson	Carlie Carmella Smith, <i>Cum Laude</i>
Kyshawn Elijah Grant	Alexis Jade Spudis
Aaron John Haber, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Carol Stratford, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Felix Hiltabidel	Colin Uter, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Alexander T. Martin, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Alexis Wesnak
Alexis Monegro	⁴ Fernando Zumaran
Laralyn Mullen	

ENGLISH

^{16,23,29,31} Sydney Ahrberg, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	^{13,23,31} Madelyn Rex, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Degree, Secondary Education</i>
Quinn Riley Carden	
Shawn Carey, Jr.	²³ Amy Sealy Garcia, <i>Cum Laude</i>
Gina Louise Kerrick	²³ Leah Elizabeth Smith, <i>Cum Laude</i>
Tara Klementowicz	Nathaniel Stavish, <i>Cum Laude</i>
²³ Darren Martinez, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Noah J. Thomas
³³ Marytere Quintana Avila	Flora Tsang

BACHELOR'S DEGREE CANDIDATES

The Dr. Bing K. Wong College of Arts & Sciences

(Continued)

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Anneke Anita Bouma, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Aidan A. Hogan, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Logan N. Dickson	Emma Grace Klusmeyer
Joseph Boyd Earl, Jr.	Joseph Kozlowski
³ Caleb A. Edwards, <i>Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Degree, Biology</i>	Faith Morcombe, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Alexa Lynn Helstowski	Sean Papke, <i>Cum Laude</i>

GEOLOGY

Max Hornbaker	³¹ Samuel Norman Winter <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Grace Slezak	
²⁹ Reagan Weldon Peri, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	

HISTORY

Colin Logan Ackerman	¹⁶ Anthony Elms
¹³ Brady James Allen, <i>Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Major, Secondary Education</i>	Donell Mackey-Woodson
^{16,29,31} Emma Ann Broda, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Degree, Political Science</i>	Luke Tordy <i>Second Major, Secondary Education</i>
Ethan Bulino	^{13,16,29,31} Kaycee Elizabeth Wren <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Major, Secondary Education</i>
Ben Dunstan	

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

²⁰ Basma Dawood Al-Salem <i>Second Degree, Political Science</i>	Eduardo Abrego Camaño <i>Second Major, Political Science</i>
	Je'nia Ari Salvador Gaskin

MATHEMATICS

^{29,31} Jordan Alexis Chepalonis, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	^{29,31} Kamea Hazle Julia Paresa, <i>Cum Laude</i>
²⁹ Christopher Kopiak, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Tanya C. Wilcox
	Jacob Zola, <i>Cum Laude</i>

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

Joshua Anthony Dombrowski, <i>Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Degree, Biochemistry</i>	³ Kayla Jessica Eckrote, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Degree, Biology</i>
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MUSICAL THEATRE

Samantha Gashi, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Rocco Pugliese, <i>Cum Laude</i>
Madeline Meier, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	

BACHELOR'S DEGREE CANDIDATES

The Dr. Bing K. Wong College of Arts & Sciences

(Continued)

NEUROSCIENCE

- | | |
|--|---|
| ^{29,31} Zain Ansari, <i>Cum Laude</i> | ^{21,29,31} Alexandra Gale Richards, <i>Cum Laude</i>
<i>Second Degree, Psychology</i> |
| ^{29,31} Sarah Naveed Arshad
<i>Summa Cum Laude</i> | ²⁹ Megan Faith Rozanski, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> |
| ^{21,29} John Ryan Devereux
<i>Summa Cum Laude</i> | Dakota Michael Rubenstein
<i>Second Major, Psychology</i> |
| ^{21,31} Katherine Durig | ^{3,21,29} Chase James Rudisill, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
<i>Second Degree, Biology</i>
<i>Second Major, Psychology</i> |
| ^{29,31} Juliana Hare, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> | ^{21,29,31} Kylie Lynn Ann Sable
Alyse Sobetsky |
| ²¹ Saurabh Mukeshkumar Patel
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
<i>Second Degree, Chemistry</i> | |

POLITICAL SCIENCE

- | | |
|---|---|
| ²⁰ Basma Dawood Al-Salem
<i>Second Degree, International Relations</i> | Leonard Egbe, Jr.
<i>Second Major, International Relations</i> |
| Jacquilyn Bickel
<i>Second Major, Criminology</i> | Arianna Lai |
| Christian A. Blomquist | Jenna Raynell Stephens |
| ^{16,29,31} Emma Ann Broda, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
<i>Second Degree, History</i> | Gabrielle Tetreault |
| Joseph Michael Day, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> | ^{20,29} Penelope Marie Ziegler
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i> |

PSYCHOLOGY

- | | |
|--|---|
| Julianna Askins | <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> |
| Rebecca Lynn Ax | Zoey Rose Lindner |
| ^{21,29} Samantha Dempsey, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> | Shawn Frances Mulligan |
| ^{4,33} Alivia Leigh Foster, <i>Cum Laude</i> | Aracelly Del C. Pineda Navarro |
| ²¹ Kendra Michele Hard
<i>Summa Cum Laude</i> | ^{21,29,31} Alexandra Gale Richards, <i>Cum Laude</i>
<i>Second Degree, Neuroscience</i> |
| Sandra Hategekimana | Landon D. Rubenstein |
| ^{4,21,29,31} Jazmin Sherrell High, <i>Cum Laude</i> | Adan Sandoval |
| Reagan Jade Holden | ³¹ Jeremy Shimko |
| Samuel Kimmel, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> | ^{2,21} Megan Tomsak, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> |
| Cooper King | ²¹ Trinity Veaudry, <i>Cum Laude</i> |
| ^{2,21} Amelia May Lawrence | Claire Wilson |

BACHELOR’S DEGREE CANDIDATES
The Dr. Bing K. Wong College of Arts & Sciences
(Continued)

SOCIOLOGY

Taylor Hall Sydney Ruskey

THEATRE ARTS

²⁹ Liv Serkosky

THEATRE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Evan Cole

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

^{17,29,31,33} Adrianna Aziz, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	^{17,29,31} Sam Patrick Hopkins, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
^{17,29,31} John Isaiah Buonanno	Komal Kaur Mathon
^{29,31} Victoria Christine Corbo	Sydney Elizabeth Naylor
Lauren DeMarco	Michael Rauch
³¹ Elayna Marie Haring	

BACHELOR’S DEGREE CANDIDATES

The College of Business and Engineering

Abel Adekola, *Dean*

The Jay S. Sidhu School of Business and Leadership

ACCOUNTING

^{5,31} Jack Thomas Argento, *Magna Cum Laude*
Second Major, Corporate Finance
Avery L. Czapla
Hunter D. Davis
Charles Robert Everdale IV

⁵ Lexy Felici, *Summa Cum Laude*
Seth Marsteller, *Cum Laude*
Brandon William Powell
Magna Cum Laude

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Chrissy Grebe, *Magna Cum Laude*
Makayla Breslin
Joseph Galonis
Lauren Lefchak
⁵ Carisa Pierontoni, *Magna Cum Laude*

Pujan Yogeshkumar Raval
Ryan Patrick Ruddy, *Magna Cum Laude*
Jaden Bradley Swainbank
Udochukwu Uchechukwu Uwawuike
Carson Wells

FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

Anthony G. Bayo, *Cum Laude*
Matthew Z. Carlson
Hunter L. Greenberg

Dominick M. Ranieli, *Magna Cum Laude*
Patrick Roginski

HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

Karla Yariseth Rodriguez Tenorio
Magna Cum Laude

MANAGEMENT

Robert Frank Cox
Mauro Guarino
Jacob David Haller
Tyler Joseph Hoedl
²⁹ Salma Nicole Lampack
Second Major, Marketing
Cameron D. Lowe
Lisbeth Maria Matias Lopez
Matthew Mayers
Evan Melberger, *Magna Cum Laude*
Steven Charles Millan, Jr.

Patrick Gabriel Owen *Magna Cum Laude*
Josephine Elizabeth Paolucci, *Cum Laude*
Jesse Mack Pinson
Patricia Scarborough, *Cum Laude*
Daniel M. Teel
^{29,31} Caden Temple, *Summa Cum Laude*
Rebecca Timko
Second Major, Marketing
Sara Esther Urena
Anthony Veach
Aiden Theodore Wolak

BACHELOR’S DEGREE CANDIDATES

The College of Business and Engineering *(Continued)*

MARKETING

Eleanor Fitzpatrick Burrows, <i>Cum Laude</i>	⁵ Amanda Marie Koneski <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Yeremin Castillo Santana, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Dominic Lopez, <i>Cum Laude</i>
Logan Colonna	Jenny Nguyen, <i>Cum Laude</i>
Ethan James Egenski	Alexandra Sheridan

SPORTS MANAGEMENT

Jacob Cambria, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Madison Alexis Maloney, <i>Cum Laude</i>
Benjamin Robert Contella III <i>Cum Laude</i>	Kyle Mandleur
Hana J. Cross	Devin Markert
Alexander Garcia Reyes	LeRoy P. Marshall III
Nico Garea	Justin Moore
Trevor Michael Gitski	⁵ Brayden Shaffer, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
Jaryn Hartranft	Nicholas J. Volpone, <i>Cum Laude</i>
	⁵ Tyler Whary, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>

Engineering

CIVIL ENGINEERING

Ethan Daniel Carper	Lucas Michael Lesko
Samantha Gonzalez	Joshua Bradley Pittenger <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> <i>Degree Awarded Posthumously</i>
Carter Jordan	
Hunter Lawall	

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

^{9,31} Joselyn Kathleen Contardi <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Matthew David Pehanich
Andrew Lewis Faul	³¹ Ethan Shudak, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Caleb Matthew Miller	²⁹ Lauren Sunder

BACHELOR'S DEGREE CANDIDATES

The College of Business and Engineering *(Continued)*

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

³¹ Benjamin Campbell	Brady Newman
¹⁰ Alena Lillia Carabetta <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Ethan James Parfitt
Nicholas Michael Davidson	Gabrielle Alexis Vogel, <i>Cum Laude</i>
Genesis Nayeli Hughes Ruíz	Luke Wawrzynek

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Mara Rae Adams	Anthony Joseph Messina
Tyler James Armand, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Schuyler Miller
Lucas Boger	Aidan Oliva
Adam Butterwick	¹¹ Christopher Angelo Patterson <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Sarah A. Coley	Ryan Piekanski
¹¹ Marshall Erwin Curtis <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Scott Robbins
Warren Tyler Faust	Nicholas Chance Romas, <i>Cum Laude</i>
¹¹ Taylor Gollin, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Jacob Stash
Odesia Griffith	^{11,31} Mason J. Vonk, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Juan Carlos Hernandez	Justin Wawrzynek
Emily Elizabeth Lewis	Hunter Braeden Wilkes
^{11,31} Travis McNett, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	¹¹ Daniel Williams
Braden Merrill, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Michael J. Williams

BACHELOR’S DEGREE CANDIDATES

The College of Health and Education

Deborah A. Zbegner, *Dean*

The Dr. Richard Abbas Alley School of Education

ELEMENTARY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Madison Carol Beltz, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Kayla Marie Mease, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Alexa Berecin, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	¹³ McKenna Melton, <i>Cum Laude</i>
¹³ Hannah Bell Best	Brooklyn Olivia Pedana
Hailey Salena Borsuk, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Gianna Christa Pilosi
Audrey Castillo Pujolks, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Philip James Pisano
Kellsey Chan	Sydney Nicole Presher
Abigail Cullen	¹³ Megan V. Ralston, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Major, Special Education PK-12</i>
Anthony Dominguez	Elizabeth Redenski, <i>Cum Laude</i>
¹³ Kaylee Katherine Fenner <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	¹³ Molly Nicole Rodino, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
Megan Gallagher, <i>Cum Laude</i>	Robert John Sabecky, Jr., <i>Cum Laude</i>
Olivia Paige Gayoski	¹³ MaKena Leigh Sanderson <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Major, Special Education PK-12</i>
Sophia Ann Glogowski <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	¹³ Faith Elizabeth Sekol, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
Nicole Amber Heylek, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Danielle Allyssa Smith, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Marissa Kania, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	¹³ Kayla Witinski, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
¹³ Christina Katchik, <i>Cum Laude</i>	

MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION

Jiovanni DeStephano-Brown	¹³ Riley Taylor Kern, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
¹³ Olivia Dougher, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	¹³ Philip David Kile, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Hannah Dittus <i>Second Degree, Biology</i>	^{13,23,31} Madelyn Rex, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> <i>Second Degree, English</i>
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SPECIAL EDUCATION PK-12

Courtney Lynn Negra	¹³ Myla Regina Vnuk, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
¹³ Jessica Timko, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	

HEALTH PROMOTION

Rashumba Brake

BACHELOR’S DEGREE CANDIDATES

The College of Health and Education *(Continued)*

The Passan School of Nursing

Accelerated Bachelor’s Degree Candidates

Jacob Anthony Brennan
Calista Ann Carl
Michaela Mandy Charles
Margaret Emily Dickson
Noelle V. Fasolino
Camille Elizabeth Finerghy
Maralee Ranae Hampton

²⁴ Jamie Johnston
Ellen Marie Kuzma
Caden Jonathon Strobel
Katie Ward
Taryn Washenik Traino
²⁴ Emma Marie Wenger

The Passan School of Nursing

Bachelor’s Degree Candidates

Saud Alsubaie, *Cum Laude*
Gabriella Amaya, *Cum Laude*
^{24,29,31} Taylor Marie Anthony, *Cum Laude*
^{4,24,31} Samantha Louise Ashford
Magna Cum Laude
^{24,31} Kahlasia Mariam Carter, *Magna Cum Laude*
Nusaybah Chesson
Kayleigh Marie Depew
²⁴ Charlene Olivia Dixon, *Magna Cum Laude*
Mackenzie Edgar
Silwan Essa
^{24,31} Emma Gabrielle Gaul, *Magna Cum Laude*
Allison Dorothy Gugliotti, *Cum Laude*
Rachel Michele Ingram
Kylie Jayne

Jacqueline Jones, *Cum Laude*
^{24,31} Madison Rose Lange, *Magna Cum Laude*
Sophia Lee
²¹ Leana Lombardo
Nicholas Dante Lombardo
Lily Moleski
Taylor O’Brien
²⁴ Brett Douglas Sanders, *Cum Laude*
²⁴ Kathryn Megan Sites, *Cum Laude*
Taysia Alon Smiley, *Cum Laude*
²⁴ Courtney Valdora, *Magna Cum Laude*
³¹ Mariana Vazquez, *Magna Cum Laude*
Hayley Ann Vesek
Owen Ward
Hannah Yvonne Winter, *Cum Laude*

Scholarly Societies and Special Designations

- 1 *Membership in Alpha Chi, the National College Honor Scholarship Society*
- 2 *Membership in Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Honorary Society in Sociology*
- 3 *Membership in Beta Beta Beta, the National Honorary Society in Biology*
- 4 *Membership in Chi Alpha Epsilon, the Honorary Society which recognizes students admitted to the University through Higher Education Opportunity Programs*
- 5 *Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Honor Society for AACSB-Accredited Business Schools*
- 6 *Honors in Biology*
- 7 *Honors in English*
- 8 *Honors in Civil Engineering*
- 9 *Honors in Electrical Engineering*
- 10 *Honors in Environmental Engineering*
- 11 *Honors in Mechanical Engineering*
- 12 *Membership in Lambda Pi Eta, the National Honor Society in Communications*
- 13 *Membership in Phi Phi Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education*
- 14 *Candidates for Pennsylvania Teacher Certification*
- 15 *Candidates for Pennsylvania Principal Certification*
- 16 *Membership in Phi Alpha Theta, the National Honor Society in History*
- 17 *Membership in Phi Lambda Sigma, the Pharmacy Leadership Society*
- 18 *Membership in Phi Sigma Tau, the National Honor Society in Philosophy*
- 19 *Membership in Pi Kappa Delta, the National Honorary Forensic Society*
- 20 *Membership in Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society*
- 21 *Membership in Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology*
- 22 *Membership in Rho Chi, the National Honor Society in Pharmacy*
- 23 *Membership in Sigma Tau Delta, the National Honor Society in English*
- 24 *Membership in Zeta Psi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society for Nursing*
- 25 *Tom Bigler Scholar*
- 26 *Pre-Medical Scholar*
- 27 *Membership in the National Student Nurses Association*
- 28 *Membership in Sigma Alpha Pi, the National Society of Leadership and Success*
- 29 *Honors Program Graduate*
- 30 *Membership in Sigma Delta Pi, the National Hispanic Honor Society*
- 31 *Barre Scholars Graduate*
- 32 *Membership in the Society for Student Nurses*
- 33 *Bonner Leader Graduate*

2026 Student Awards

For a complete listing of student award winners,
please visit wilkes.edu/academicawards or scan the QR code below.



Class of 2026 Officers

Victoria Corbo

SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT

Nahjae Johnson

SENIOR CLASS VICE PRESIDENT

McHale Athletic Center, Simms Center on Main

FIRST AID — Medical personnel are available for first aid assistance at the first aid station in the Engel Room just off the lobby. Should you need assistance, please contact the usher or a Public Safety Officer.

PICTURE TAKING — Because of the space limitations, safety and control, no one, except the professional photographer and members of the press with appropriate credentials, will be allowed access to the stage area for the purpose of taking pictures or video. A photograph will be taken of each graduate as the diploma is presented by the President.

RESTROOMS — Restrooms are accessible from the lobby and on the second floor. A women's restroom is available at the rear of the McHale Athletic Center.

BEVERAGES — Water is available at the drinking fountains on the first floor of the building. Starbucks will be open during the ceremony.

LOST AND FOUND — The lost and found is inside the Wilkes University Public Safety Center located at 148 S. Main St.

Academic Costume

The celebration of Commencement is surrounded by rich traditions. The established community of scholars — the Faculty — convene to recognize officially the newest group of proven scholars — the Graduates — and welcome them in fellowship. Graduates don the attire that for years has symbolized scholarly attainment.

During the Middle Ages, those seeking an education traveled to European centers of learning. Centers of learning and universities were closely allied with the clerics of the time, and the scholars donned garb similar to that worn by the clergy. This evolved into the academic uniform, a long black gown, hood and cap, which proved useful for studying in unheated and drafty buildings. The hood served simultaneously as a head covering, a repository for coins and alms and the forerunner of the modern day book bag. The hood was adorned with the colors of the university and designated the young scholar's school or university affiliation. By their distinctive clothing the students were set apart and distinguished from the citizens of the town; hence the origin of the phrase "town and gown."

American colleges and universities adopted the wearing of the traditional apparel in Colonial times, and a common code for academic apparel was established in the mid-nineteenth century.

The hood is the most distinctive feature of academic regalia. The inside of the hood is lined with the official colors of the institution; today you see Wilkes graduates wearing hoods lined with the blue and gold colors of the University. The velvet trim around the outside of the hood designates the degree or field of study of the graduates. The velvet colors worn by today's graduates signify the following:

Golden Yellow — *Science*
White — *Arts, Letters, Humanities*
Drab — *Business Administration*
Brown — *Fine Arts*
Olive — *Pharmacy*
Blue — *Education*
Apricot — *Nursing*

The style of the gown distinguishes graduates by the degree they have earned. Those earning the bachelor's degree wear a simple black gown with elongated pointed sleeves. Holders of the master's degree wear gowns with a longer, closed, square cut sleeve. The doctoral gown is trimmed with velvet stripes on the sleeves and panels of velvet on the front closure of the gown.

Some American universities have adopted doctoral gowns in their distinctive colors. You will notice the slate of Columbia, the red of Cornell, the burgundy of the University of Pennsylvania and the bright blue of the University of Michigan.

To have earned the privilege of wearing academic costume regalia signifies not only the completion of a program of studies, but entrance into the comradery of scholarship.

The University Mace and Presidential Chain of Office

The mace and the presidential chain of office used in academic celebrations represent traditions dating to the sixteenth century. The mace symbolizes the authority of the university and the chain of office designates the presidential leadership of the academy.

The Wilkes University mace and presidential chain of office were gifts of local donors and were first used in 1970 at the inauguration of the second president of Wilkes. They were designed by Ottie Hill Chwalek '61 and executed by Kurt Matzdorf, a nationally recognized gold and silversmith from the State University of New York at New Paltz.

The University Mace

The sterling silver mace has a gilt knob at its base and a gilt circle at the top bearing the inscription “Wilkes College 1933.” The bowl, rising above the neck of the mace, signifies Wilkes-Barre’s role as a melting pot, forming a new and vigorous community of people from many different backgrounds. This theme is reiterated in the inscription of the University’s motto “Unity Amidst Diversity” which surrounds the upper part of the bowl. The gilt flame symbolizes the enlightenment gained from higher education, while the piece of anthracite coal set in the center of the flame commemorates the origin of the University in a community known for its coal mining past.

The Presidential Chain of Office

The Presidential Chain of Office, created from sterling silver, has alternating bowls and gilt flames, repeating the motif of the mace. On the front of the four-foot chain hangs a gilt seal of Wilkes which is suspended from a cluster of oak leaves with acorns, suggesting the strength and sturdiness of future generations. On the back of the Presidential Chain of Office is a silver portrait of Dr. Eugene S. Farley, the first President of Wilkes. Dr. Farley’s portrait is surrounded by gilt oak leaves commemorating his strong leadership of the emerging institution.

